101-602

Public Law 101-602
101st Congress

An Act

To approve the Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Settlement, and for other purposes.

Nov. 16, 1990
[H.R. 5309]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Act of 1990.
Idaho.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Act of 1990".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act, and for no other purposes—

(1) The term "Agreement" means the "1990 Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Agreement" between the State of Idaho, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, the United States, and other participating parties.

(2) The term "Committee of Nine" means the advisory committee of water district 01, which is the instrumentality created by the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources pursuant to Idaho Code 42-604.

(3) The term "Final Decree" means the partial decree confirming the Tribal water rights described and quantified in Article 7 of the Agreement to be entered after the date of enactment of this Act and following submission of the Agreement as provided for in Article 10 of the Agreement in Civil Case No. 39576 filed in the Fifth Judicial District Court of the State of Idaho in and for Twin Falls County on June 17, 1987, entitled In Re the General Adjudication of Rights to the Use of Water from the Snake River Basin Water System.

(4) The term "Fort Hall Indian Irrigation Project" means the Federal project constructed to provide water for the irrigation of Reservation lands and certain ceded lands.

(5) The term "Idaho Water Resource Board" means the Idaho State Water Resource Agency constituted in accordance with Idaho Constitution article XV, section 7, or any successor agency.

(6) The term "Indian" means any person who is a member of a tribe recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States because of the person's status as an Indian; is recognized as an Indian under tribal law; or holds or is recognized by the Secretary as eligible to hold restricted trust property on the Reservation.

(7) The term "Indian lands" means (A) all lands within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation that are held in trust or owned for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes or an Indian, and (B) those lands outside the exterior boundaries of the Reservation held in trust for or owned by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes or held in trust for or owned subject to a restriction on alienation by a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

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(8) The term "Michaud Act" means the Act of August 31, 1954, chapter 1159, 68 Stat. 1026.

(9) The term "Michaud Contract" means that Memorandum Agreement of April 25, 1957, between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs relating to the water supply for the Michaud Division.

(10) The term "Michaud Division" means that division of the Fort Hall Indian Irrigation Project authorized by the Act of August 31, 1954, chapter 1159, 68 Stat. 1026.

(11) The term "Party" or "Parties" means any entity or entities that are party to the Agreement.

(12) The term "Reservation" means the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

(13) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(14) The term "Tribes" or "Tribal" means the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, its members, and its allottees.

(15) The term "Upper Snake River Basin" means that portion of the Snake River Basin upstream from the Hells Canyon Dam, the lowest of the 3 dams authorized as FERC Project No. 1971.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

The purpose of the Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 1990 is to achieve a fair, equitable, and final settlement of all claims of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, its members, and its allottees and the United States on behalf of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, its members, and its allottees to water rights in the Upper Snake River Basin.

SEC. 4. RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT.

The Agreement is hereby approved, ratified, and confirmed. The Secretary is authorized and directed to implement the Agreement on behalf of the United States.

SEC. 5. PROTECTION OF EXISTING USES.

(a) CONTRACT FOR STORAGE SPACE.—The Secretary is authorized and directed to contract with the Idaho Water Resource Board or another appropriate contracting entity acceptable to the Committee of Nine for 18,900 acre feet of storage space in the Palisades Reservoir and the 80,500 acre feet of storage space in the Ririe Reservoir provided that the contracting entity makes application for the noncontracted storage space within 1 year of the date of this Act and the contracting party agrees to pay all operation and maintenance costs associated with the space. The repayment obligation associated with the construction costs for such noncontracted storage space is hereby deemed repaid by this Act. All exemptions that result from such a repayment shall be deemed to be applicable without further qualification on the part of such contracting entity, and with respect to subsequent users of this water, the Reclamation laws shall apply only to the extent such laws would have applied to such subsequent users prior to the date of this Act.

(b) LIMITATION ON SETTING ASIDE FINAL DECREE.—Neither the Committee of Nine nor the State shall have the right to set aside the Final Decree because either fails to make application for the storage space referred to in subsection (a) of this section within 1 year of the date of this Act.

SEC. 6. USE, TRANSFER, AND LEASE OF TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS.

(a) TRANSFER AND LEASE OF TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS WITHIN THE RESERVATION.—The Tribes shall have the right to transfer or lease within the Reservation all or any part of the Tribal water right confirmed in the Final Decree on the terms and conditions set forth in article 7 of the Agreement.

(b) RENTAL OF THE TRIBES FEDERAL CONTRACT STORAGE WATER.—The Tribes shall have the right to rent, pursuant to Idaho Code 42-1761 through 42-1765 as specified in article 7 of the Agreement, the water accruing to Federal storage space held in trust for the Tribes under the Michaud Act.

(c) INSTREAM FLOWS.—The Tribes shall have the right to use any or all of the water accruing to Federal storage space held in trust for the Tribes under the Michaud Act for instream flows for river reaches on or adjacent to the Reservation and up to 15,000 acre feet per year of the storage water rights described in articles 7.1.19 and 7.1.20 of the Agreement for instream flows in reaches of the Blackfoot River on the terms and conditions set forth in article 7.4 of the Agreement.

(d) REQUISITE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.—Ratification of the Agreement as provided for by section 4 of this Act shall constitute the congressional approval, to the extent it is required by Federal law, of the uses described in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section.

(e) AMENDMENT OF MICHAUD ACT AND CONTRACT.—The Michaud Act and the Michaud Contract are hereby amended to the extent necessary to authorize the uses described in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of the proprietary rights described in article 7 of the Agreement. 68 Stat. 1026.

(f) NO ALIENATION OR TAXATION OF PROCEEDS.—The proceeds from leasing water pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or from renting all or any part of the water accruing to the Federal contract storage space pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall not be subject to any form of taxation or alienation by the State.

(g) NO FORFEITURE, ABANDONMENT, LOSS, OR CONSTRAINTS ON INCOME.—The Tribes' exercise of the rights described in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section or nonuse of the Tribal water rights shall in no event be construed or interpreted as any forfeiture, abandonment, relinquishment, or other loss of all or any part of the Tribal water rights. Nor shall the exercise of the rights described in subsections (a) and (b) of this section be subject to any constraints on the amount of income or other compensation received by the Tribes.

(h) LIMITATION ON OFF-RESERVATION USE.—Except as authorized by this section, no Tribal water rights or water described in the Agreement may be sold, leased, rented, transferred, or otherwise used off the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

SEC. 7. CONTRIBUTION TO SETTLEMENT.

Appropriation authorizations.

(a) TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT FUND.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs $4,000,000 in the first fiscal year, $3,000,000 in the second fiscal year, and $3,000,000 in the third fiscal year following the effective date of this Act for payment to the Tribal Development Fund, which the Secretary is authorized and directed to establish for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Within 60 days of appropriation of moneys for the Tribal Development Fund, the Secretary shall allocate and make payment to the Fund. Once the funds are deposited

into the Tribal Development Fund, the Secretary shall disburse the funds to the Tribes upon request.

(b) RESERVATION WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.—There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs the sum of $3,000,000 in the first fiscal year, $2,000,000 in the second fiscal year, and $2,000,000 in the third fiscal year following the effective date of this Act for use by the Tribes for development of a Reservation water management system. Within 60 days of appropriation of moneys for the Reservation water management system, the Secretary shall allocate and make payment to the Tribes for the purposes described in this section.

(c) ACQUISITION OF LANDS, GRAZING RIGHTS, AND IMPROVEMENTS.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs $5,000,000 for the primary purposes of acquiring for the Fort Hall Indian Irrigation Project available lands and grazing rights adjacent to Grays Lake to enhance the operation and management of the project and of making related improvements as well as providing collateral benefits for the operation of the Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge at Grays Lake.

(d) LIMITATION ON PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTIONS.—Under no circumstances may any appropriated funds authorized by subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section be distributed on a per capita basis to members of the Tribes.

(e) LIMITATION ON SETTING ASIDE FINAL DECREE.—Neither the Tribes nor the United States shall have the right to set aside the Final Decree because Congress fails to appropriate the funds authorized by subsection (a), (b), or (c) of this section or because the United States fails to acquire the grazing allotments adjacent to Grays Lake.

(f) TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed or interpreted to alter the future trust responsibility of the United States to the Tribes nor to prohibit the Tribes from seeking additional authorization or appropriation of funds for Tribal programs or purposes.

SEC. 8. WAIVER OF CLAIMS.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Upon the effective date of the Agreement, the Tribes and the United States shall be deemed to have waived and released any and all water rights or claims to water rights of the Tribes, its members and its allottees from any source within the Upper Snake River Basin other than those set forth in article 7 of the Agreement. This release shall not apply to water right claims under State law of Tribal members for lands not defined as Indian lands for purposes of this Act nor to any other Indian tribe or to any Federal agency other than the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Hall Indian Agency.

(b) WAIVER OF CLAIMS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.—In consideration of performance by the United States of all actions required by the Agreement and this Act, including the congressional authorization, appropriation, and payment of all funds authorized in section 7 of this Act, the Tribes shall be deemed to have executed in return a waiver and release of any and all existing claims against the United States arising in whole or in part from or concerning water rights finally settled by the Agreement and for lands or water that have been inundated by the past construction or enlargement of American Falls Reservoir.

(c) WAIVER OF CLAIMS AGAINST NON-FEDERAL PERSONS.—Upon entry of the Final Decree confirming the Tribal water rights, the United States and the Tribes agree not to make any claims against, or seek compensation from, any non-Federal person for lands or water that have been inundated by the past construction or enlargement of American Falls Reservoir. In the event funds are not paid as set forth in section 7, the Tribes are authorized to bring an action in the United States Claims Court for such funds plus applicable interest. The United States hereby waives any defense of sovereign immunity to such action.

SEC. 9. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AND ALLOTTEES OF THE TRIBES.

The water rights described in the Agreement and confirmed in the Final Decree are in full satisfaction of all water right claims of members of the Tribes and allottees for Indian lands in the Upper Snake River Basin. If any Tribal member or allottee is decreed a water right for Indian lands in Civil Case No. 39576 filed in the Fifth Judicial District Court of the State of Idaho in and for Twin Falls County on June 17, 1987, entitled "In Re the General Adjudication of Rights to the Use of Water from the Snake River Basin Water System", there shall be a corresponding reduction made in the Tribal water rights set forth in the Agreement and the Final Decree.

SEC. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS UPON EFFECTIVE DATE.—The moneys appropriated pursuant to the authorization in section 7 of this Act shall not be disbursed until such time as the Agreement becomes effective. If the Agreement does not become effective, the moneys shall be returned to the General Fund of the Treasury, and the Agreement may be voided by any party to the Agreement.

(b) FORCE AND EFFECT.—No provision of this Act shall be of any force unless the Agreement becomes effective as provided by article 18 of the Agreement.

SEC. 11. DISCLAIMER.

(a) GENERAL DISCLAIMER.—Nothing in the Agreement or this Act shall be construed in any way to quantify or otherwise affect the water rights or water right claims of the city of Pocatello, Idaho, or of any Indian tribe, band, or community, other than the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

(b) RESERVATION OF TRIBAL CLAIMS.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to waive any water rights or water right claims of the Tribe or the United States on behalf of the Tribes except as set forth in the Agreement. Nor shall anything in the Agreement or this Act affect the water rights or water right claims of any Federal agency, other than the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fort Hall Indian Agency.

(c) RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.—The parties expressly reserve all rights not granted, recognized, or settled by the Agreement or this Act.

(d) DISCLAIMER REGARDING OTHER AGREEMENTS.—Except as expressly provided in this Act, nothing herein shall be considered to

amend, construe, supersede, or preempt any State law, Federal law, Tribal law, or interstate compact that pertains to the Snake River or its tributaries.

SEC. 12. PROTECTION OF TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS.

The Tribal water rights confirmed by the Final Decree shall bind and inure to the benefit of the Tribes and shall not be taken from them absent their consent and payment of just compensation.

Approved November 16, 1990.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 5308:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 101-831 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 136 (1990):
Oct. 10, considered and passed House.
Oct. 27, considered and passed Senate.

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